

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
TOM DAVIS, CHAIRMAN



NEWS RELEASE

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Davis-Authored Provisions Are
Key Part of House's 9/11 Legislation

Reorganization Authority for Intelligence Agencies, Improved Security Clearance Process, Stronger ID Standards Are Among Davis' Proposals

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Tom Davis (R-VA), chairman of the House Committee on Government Reform, authored several important provisions of the legislation introduced today to revamp the nation's intelligence network and improve national security.

The House's legislation, the culmination of the bipartisan 9/11 Commission report and Congress's own recent oversight work, creates a new National Intelligence Director (with budget authority), a National Counterterrorism Center, a Joint Intelligence Community Council and makes other comprehensive reforms to the organization of the Intelligence Community.

"This is a comprehensive, deliberative bill that represents the best work of the 9/11 Commission and of Congress itself," Davis said. "We took our time to craft a bill that creates a nimble, effective, flat structure for the National Intelligence Director and the National Counterterrorism Center, takes other steps to improve the security of our nation, and at all times remains true to the 9/11 Commission report."

At the suggestion of Chairman Davis, the legislation includes the following:

- Executive Reorganization Authority (enabling the President to propose re-organization plans and receive an up-or-down vote in Congress) given Director solely for reorganization of the Intelligence Community.
- A streamlined appointments process for presidential nominees to national security jobs.

- An improved security clearance process that guarantees reciprocity among agencies (to end the current time- and money-wasting practice of agencies doing their own investigations and adjudications) and tasks a single agency, the Office of the National Intelligence Director, with modernizing the security clearance process.
- New standards for ensuring the security of identification cards and birth certificates – so, for example, when people use a driver’s license to board a plane, or for any other “federal purpose,” we can be confident that they are who they say they are.
- Provisions to revitalize the FBI workforce to bolster the agency’s intelligence operations.
- An enabling of mutual aid agreements – allowing first responders from Arlington County, for example, to come to the aid of those in need in D.C. or Maryland without having to worry about liability issues.
- A requirement for agencies to enhance their planning for information security needs.

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